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Introduction

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Introduction to Issue 5

Marieka Brouwer Burg

In this fifth issue of *Spectrum*, we present a diverse array of student works that uniquely contribute to the ongoing scholarship and critique of applied anthropology. We begin by showcasing undergraduate research projects that focus on the application of anthropological knowledge in the subfield of medical anthropology. Jennifer Allen provides an overview of her multi-year study investigating patient assessment of health care professionals and clinicians. Allen's work adds to the medical assessment literature that targets an underrepresented segment of the population: university students between the ages of 18–26. She argues that understanding how young adults assess the quality of their health care should be a critical concern for today's medical professionals. In a related piece involving health issues among university students, Subha Singh investigates how a group of young female students acquire knowledge about HIV. Through a series of interviews conducted with Muslim and non-Muslim university women, Singh explores the degree to which religion and ethnic background influence this knowledge acquisition process. In the end, she uncovers a broader and more shocking trend among university students regardless of their gender, religion, ethnicity, or socioeconomic class. Both Singh and Allen received prestigious awards from UNH to carry out their research (a McNair Scholarship for Singh and an Undergraduate Research Award for Allen).

The next two papers, rather than being strict research papers, are the product of a proposal assignment completed for Prof. Sara Withers' course *ANTH 612: Applied Anthropology*. While hypothetical, these papers involved a significant amount of outside research into areas of real-world concern for practicing anthropologists. Emily Belanus presents a proposal for

mitigating the effects of HIV/AIDS in South Africa by developing preemptive and retroactive strategies for combatting the spread of this epidemic. Belanus argues that one of the biggest barriers to diminishing the spread of this virus is to combat locally held beliefs about gender roles and stigmatization that arises through inadequate education. To conclude the section on Research Articles, Madeline Moison outlines a plan for educating anthropology majors and other undergraduates at the University of New Hampshire about the field of Anthropology, its relevancy for non-majors, as well as the research being conducted by faculty in the Department of Anthropology. Moison recounts her work developing and implementing a gallery exhibition in the Spring 2015, and describes her vision for continuing public anthropology outreach through formation of an Anthropology Club.

In the subsequent section, we present a variety of Media Reviews. The first three reviews cover anthropologically themed books, while the second two contributions constitute a comparative film review and a lecture review. All of these contributions explore cases where anthropology is being applied to address specific humanitarian concerns worldwide. Erin Fitzpatrick summarizes the work of Michelle Murphy in *Seizing the Means of Production*, which reveals how feminist movements of the 1970s and 1980s have striven to regain control over women's reproductive health. Natalee Stimpson analyzes the important work of Philippe Bourgois and Jeffery Schonberg, *Righteous Dopefiend*, which narrows in on the plight of homeless drug-addicts in San Francisco. The last three reviews center on archaeological media. Gabriella Pezzelli recounts the important work of Jeremy Sabloff's *Archaeology Matters: Action Archaeology in the Modern World*, detailing the many ways that knowledge gleaned from archaeological research on past cultures can be used to tackle present day issues such as climate change, social inequality, and human conflict. James Naas evaluates three popular

archaeologically themed films in his review: *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, *The Mummy*, and *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*. As popular culture icons, these films provide the general public with much of their knowledge of what archaeology is, and what archaeologists do; Naas describes the many ways in which these films supply inaccurate information about archaeology, and how they serve to create and maintain many of our widely-held beliefs about gender, race, and colonialism. Last, Matthew McGinnis discusses a panel discussion held in April 2015 to raise awareness about the ongoing threat posed by Islamic militant groups on world heritage and other archaeologically significant sites in Syria and Iraq. McGinnis compares the dialogue presented by Drs. Michael Danti and Andrew Vaughn of the Syrian Heritage Initiative (part of ASOR, the American School of Oriental Research) to alternative perspectives on such heritage destruction derived from courses in Architectural History and Natural Resource Management offered at the University of New Hampshire.

Many thanks go out to the student contributors who worked hard to make this fifth edition of *Spectrum* a success, and to Carolyn Stolzenburg for her assistance in the editorial process. We hope readers will find this volume's wide-ranging content thought provoking and inspirational. Enjoy!